

INSIDE | AUT

NEWS FROM AUT UNIVERSITY | TE WĀNANGA ARONUI O TĀMAKI MAKAU RAU



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VC's Letter

Our thirteenth year as a university has been another marked by success. We have just celebrated the largest graduation we've ever hosted, with thousands of graduands, from diploma to doctoral level, crossing the stage, to the pride and joy of their families and supporters. Among these were our first graduates from the Manukau Campus.

We still remain the fastest-growing university in the country, we have yet again met budget and we are now counted amongst the best 500 universities in the world. Our Business School is in the global top 300 and our Engineering School in the top 400. We have lifted our EPI (Education Performance Indicator) grading and we continue on that track.

A tremendous effort went into the PBRF round this year and I appreciate the efforts of the Research Office and our academic staff. As well, we have continued to grow our international enrolments and grown our international networks and profile.

We have built the magnificent 'WG' learning precinct which, I am pleased to announce, will be called, the Sir Paul Reeves Building – which will opened, in style, in March. And we have completed Stage I of our Millennium Campus development, with funding in place to begin Phase II.

We have hosted international conferences featuring world-experts in social media, neuroscience and much more. And some of our leading researchers have received international honours and won significant research funding.

This has been a year – another year – of real development. A well-earned break now awaits us.

I am grateful to Chancellor, John Maasland for his counsel and support, and I thank the AUT Council for their commitment and enthusiasm. Most of all, I acknowledge you, the people who make AUT what it is: truly, the university for the changing world.

I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and I look forward to sharing an exciting New Year.



Business Dean wins leadership award

Dean of the AUT Business School, Dr Geoff Perry won the category for Excellence in Business Leadership at the Westpac Auckland Central Business Awards last month.

More than 500 people attended the gala ceremony to celebrate Central Auckland business success. The Awards celebrate excellence in eight areas of business performance – Innovation, Exporting, Service Delivery, Best Emerging Business, Marketing, Business Leadership, Workplace Safety and Retail. This year the Awards attracted 111 entries across all categories.

This was the second year Auckland central businesses had the opportunity to showcase their success after the awards were initiated last year.

Dr Geoff Perry says it's the first time the AUT Business School has entered the prestigious awards and so it's a real honour to be named as one of the 2012 winners.

"To be recognised for business leadership at AUT Business School is a real highlight," Perry says.

"As a provider of business education in New Zealand, we are responsible

for preparing the next generation of business professionals and leaders – and to ensure that our curriculum, teaching and research is relevant to business. Operating in close collaboration with business and the community is a key priority for us, as is demonstrating our own clear vision and leadership.

"Winning this award is a tribute to the hard work of all our staff, in continually driving AUT Business School forward."

Over the past three years, the AUT Business School has demonstrated a number of significant achievements, including becoming accredited by ACCSB International; growing its postgraduate programmes and portfolio of research academics; extending experiential learning to all degree programmes; increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of its course delivery model; and continues to increase its close industry networks.

Students at the heart of AUT's City Campus developments



Three complimentary projects relating to the new WG precinct development will be completed over the summer.

AUT, in partnership with Auckland City Council, is upgrading Governor Fitzroy Plaza. The area will be landscaped to provide a welcoming public access way between Mayoral Drive and St Paul Street, creating a connection between the Business School and WG buildings. Students and staff will be able to walk between

the two buildings from level 3 of WG. The newly landscaped plaza will be a central gateway into the university.

We are building a brand new Student Centre on the ground floor level of WA. The new centre will be a hub for student information and support, and brings together services that have previously been situated

in different locations across the City Campus, including: a comprehensive information service for students, parents, visitors, alumni and prospective students; recruitment activities; scholarships, undergraduate, postgraduate and exam support; enrolments; and cashiering. Moving away from the traditional helpdesk model, the centre's staff, equipped with portable technology, will provide a mobile service delivery fostering quality and engaging interactions.

Finally, we are converting

level 2 WE where we are upgrading offices and edit suites, maintaining a practice TV studio and creating a new loan-out facility for specialist media equipment. For the first time, students will be able to use an electronic booking system to borrow the technical equipment needed as part of the curriculum being taught in WG. There will also be an after-hours return option, another first for AUT. All three projects will be completed in February 2013 – just in time for the return of our students.

Standing up to learn

Children sitting attentively listening to the teacher could be a thing of the past if research from AUT proves beneficial. While the students will still be listening to the teacher, they may be standing rather than sitting.

Associate Professor Erica Hinckson and doctoral candidate Saeideh Aminian are working with Onepoto Primary School in Northcote. The objective is to determine if standing up promotes more physical activity and improves learning. For a trial period of a few weeks this year, one senior class had most of its chairs and tables removed and replaced with stand-up desks.

Associate Professor Hinckson says it is about reducing the opportunities for children to be sedentary.

"Children are naturally active, they like to exercise and move around. Standing-up desks afford them the opportunity to move while they are learning," she says.

"Most children have a lot of energy to expend and if they are not using it during the course of the day there can be a tendency to be distracted."

A communal aspect was also introduced to the classroom, with all stationery shared rather than owned by each student. To measure the effects on the children, they were fitted with a device

that measures the time students are sitting or standing. The device was used by the children during the school day and when they went home, with some interesting results. They found that stand-up desks resulted in an extra hour standing up per day compared with when they used chairs. And while it was found that children would spend less time after school standing, in the weekends they did more physical activity than before.

Principal of Onepoto Marc Dombroski said he was open-minded about the idea of change from the very start. "We weren't worried. We're not frightened of new ideas."

The lay-out of the classroom was completely changed with stand-up desks situated in a circular formation around

the room. Swiss balls were made available for children to use if they got tired.

Mr Dombroski said that while the Swiss balls were popular at the beginning, eventually the children preferred to stand. "It was the novelty factor I think. Eventually, after a few weeks, they just didn't bother with them," he says.

The children tended to conglomerate into friend groups, he said, with some tables proving more popular than others.

"In conclusion, I think it has been a great initiative. They seem to have more energy and because they are working so closely with each other in a dynamic learning space, there is more interaction which promotes social skills. Ideally we would have a combination of stand-up desks and chairs."



Child's play helps combat obesity

Children can benefit more from active play compared to structured exercise, according to research published recently in the New Zealand Medical Journal.

Vision on

Behind-the-scenes work currently being undertaken for the new WG precinct includes the installation of an extensive network of digital signage throughout the building.

More than 90 screens installed in public spaces, driven by state-of-the-art media players and specialised software, will show content ranging from award-winning student work, to timetabling and way-finding information. Three large video walls will be an outstanding feature of the new system, which will also include five interactive way-finding kiosks and ten screens in the new café.

The project is being led by Martin Bell, Establishment Director of the AUT Media Suite. "From both a technical and a content management perspective, AUT leads the field in New Zealand with this project," says Bell. "Multiple customized content feeds will be delivered simultaneously to various screen 'zones'. For example, the video walls may be programmed as one zone featuring creative content showcasing and celebrating student work, while other screens will deliver current timetabling information. Individual screens can further be divided into zones displaying different content feeds," explains Bell.

Digital Signage Content Manager Dave Yetton, who joined the project at the end of October, is keen to hear from staff with their content ideas. "Fundamentally, we want to ensure that the content is interesting, is engaging and leaves a positive impression on students, staff and university visitors."

SHOWING ON SCREEN

- Student and academic work showcasing success
- Live events and feeds from AUT broadcast facilities and teaching spaces
- Information for staff, students and visitors
- Campus and general news
- Website, RSS and social media feeds
- Weather and transport announcements
- Way-finding and timetabling information
- Emergency information
- Cafeteria menus and daily specials
- Special announcements

"When it comes to combating obesity and increasing children's daily physical activity levels, active play is just as important, if not more so, than structured exercise," says Associate Professor Erica Hinckson from AUT University's Centre for Child Health Research and Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition.

The research examined perceptions of physical activity versus 'play' among parents and children from socio-economically deprived areas. Findings revealed that participants viewed physical activity and play quite differently, which could lead to barriers in engaging with any type of healthy activity.

"Physical activity was seen as structured activity, undertaken for a specific timeframe every day, whereas play was seen as unstructured activity which involved having fun," says Hinckson. "The view that physical activity is something structured (in order to be beneficial) seemed to distance participants from engagement. There was a strong perception that physical activity was 'good for you', rather than 'being fun', and this perception seemed to be a barrier to children getting involved in physical activity."

A group of South Auckland school children aged 8-12 and their parents took part in the study where the aim was to identify factors influencing healthy and overweight children's after-school activities. Previous research has found significant differences in the health and weight of children from lower socio-economic backgrounds compared with middle income families.

"After school community activity programmes have been identified as a means of increasing overall activity levels in children, however the emphasis of these should be on 'play' rather than physical activity."

Hinckson says that while interventions focusing on active play have proved successful at increasing physical activity, some practitioners do not view play as physically demanding or able to provide children with the same benefits of structured exercise.

Despite this, previous research has shown that children engage more with moderate to vigorous physical activity from active play during lunch break at school than from structured exercise in physical education classes.

Parents in the study also highlighted a number of potential barriers to increased physical activity levels in their children; these included time, money and transport. Community support and communication were identified as important in creating safer communities and places to play for children.

"For after-school community activity programmes to be successful, a safe neighbourhood environment in conjunction with increased community support is really important for parents.

"Free or low cost programmes, supervised playgrounds, improved community communication and support, carpooling kids to activities – these were amongst some of the recommendations we received from our parents to increase physical activity of children in their neighbourhoods," says Hinckson.



AUT Finance team wins the 2012 CFA Institute Research Challenge

AUT Finance students secured top prize at the 2012 CFA Institute Research Challenge, hosted by the CFA Society of New Zealand.

The five students from AUT Business School will now go on to represent New Zealand in the Asia Pacific Challenge in Kuala Lumpur in February 2013. Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Canterbury took second and third place respectively, among the seven participating universities from around the country. Representing AUT were MBA students Elva Feng and Yury Kizima, and Bachelor of Business students Kurt Millar, Veran Patel and Zac Wu. For the third year running the team was mentored by AUT Senior Lecturer Dr Katrin Gottschalk, CFA and Jeremy Simpson, CFA, Director Research at Forsyth Barr.

The Challenge involved researching, analysing and reporting on a target company – this year, NZX-listed heavyweight Fletcher Building

(FBU) – as if the students were practising equity analysts. Between July and October the teams attended several conference calls hosted by Philip King, General Manager of Investor and Media Relations at FBU, while writing up their research, financial analysis and valuation in an initiation of coverage report.

At the grand final in Auckland on 12 October, the teams presented their recommendation to a panel of top fund managers from AMP Capital Investors, Brook Asset Management and Kiwibank. The judges, all CFA charter holders, were highly impressed by the quality of the student research showcased. The AUT team received special accolades for their valuation and financial analysis, all delivered in a punchy presentation. As the team's faculty advisor, Dr

Gottschalk says this is an invaluable learning experience for students seeking a career in the finance industry.

"Not only do they get hands-on experience as financial analysts and receive mentoring from both academics and investment professionals, they also enhance their team management and

presentation skills and learn to negotiate tight deadlines. Last but not least, the benefits from networking with high-profile industry leaders and finance students from other universities are huge."

For more information about the Challenge, visit <http://www.cfainstitute.org/cfaprogram/challenge/>



The AUT team receiving the winners' trophy from Rhiannon McKinnon, Vice President of the CFA Society New Zealand (from left): Rhiannon McKinnon, Yury Kizima, Elva Feng, Zac Wu, Veran Patel, Kurt Millar

Hang on to hope

Globally, depression affects around 350 million people. With World Health Organisation estimating depression to become the second highest cause of ill health and premature death globally by 2020, are we facing a depression epidemic?

At AUT, new research is exploring the experiences of people diagnosed with depression. The research aims to develop a deeper understanding of the experience of treatment and recovery for people who have had depression in New Zealand.

Psychology honours student Barbara Pike is investigating the experiences of short-term mental health service-users in particular. Little research has been conducted into this group and yet they represent the majority of overall mental health figures, says Pike.

"In New Zealand, one in eight will meet the criteria for a Major Depressive Episode in their lifetime. Rates are rising and the

age of onset is becoming lower, so it's becoming increasingly important to review how we diagnose and treat depression."

Preliminary findings show that, with good treatment, people develop insight and understanding into their experience of depression; where it comes from and what they can do about it.

"The Mental Health Commission emphasises that recovery is a journey to living well, with or without the ongoing effects of mental illness. This idea is supported by the research, where people talk about recovery as feeling better, but also being able to recognise the signs of an oncoming low mood and make changes.

"Sometimes, people need to make major life changes in their journey to recovery, such as quitting a job, ending a relationship or both. Their new self-understanding allows them to know what to do to maintain their wellness."

"Other research also shows that better outcomes are achieved with more psychosocial interventions; where treatment takes into account the individual's work roles and social functioning."

Pike, who has also experienced depression, hopes her research will contribute to a better understanding about what aspects within and outside of treatment are helpful for recovery.

"I experienced severe depression throughout my early 20s, for which I accessed treatment in New Zealand and overseas. I would now classify myself as fully recovered. It was an incredibly difficult experience, but one I would not change because of the many positive things it has brought into my life."

On the road to Sustainability

Over the last few years a number of waste related sustainability initiatives have been rolled out at AUT, including the removal of general rubbish bins from office areas across a selection of buildings, the roll out of desktop cubes and recyclable paper boxes and the installation of the Molok Deep Waste bin system to assist with bulk waste and recycling handling.

A recent waste audit by Morphum Environmental of external waste bins across all three campuses identified the actual waste streams from our bins and recommended what types of outdoor area recycling we should be using.

Rubbish in our external bins contained:

	MANUKAU	NORTH SHORE	CITY
Total recyclable	29%	29%	33%
Total compostable	47%	36%	41%
Total to landfill	24%	35%	26%

Other organisations that had previously tried to roll-out too many types of separation recycling bins at the same time have advised us that their success was limited due to increasing amount of contamination of recycling streams with general waste or the wrong types of recyclables in each bin.

Heeding the advice from these organisations, we have chosen to start with a two-bin system that can later be adapted to add a third. The two bins will be: 1) for bottles and solid plastics and 2) for general waste. The potential third bin would be for food waste.

Work has also been undertaken with our current recyclables waste collector to ensure that they can change from collecting plastics 1, 2 and 5 to collecting all solid plastics.

The recommendations of waste auditors, Morphum Environmental, were shared with AUT's architect, Jasmx. The team at Jasmx set to work on design options that would enable the outsides of the bins to be used as communications channels to keep the AUT community updated on how waste and recycling initiatives are progressing at the University.

In addition to this work we are also currently reviewing food waste options, including the potential for a worm farm in Hikuwai plaza. The worm farm option was suggested during the consultation sessions for the Strategic Plan, where students expressed a desire to reduce food waste going to landfill by using worm farms. The output from the worm farm could even be used to fertilise our gardens!

Ongoing waste audits include our 'in-building' areas and our student accommodation buildings, which have their own special profile of waste generation. Areas that produce large volumes of back-of-house food waste, such as WH, food courts and our café kitchens, are also being reviewed.

Our sustainability journey continues into 2013 and we'll be sharing information with you as the year progresses. Look out for updates in Weekly Global, Inside AUT and on our rubbish bins!

The future of New Zealand media even more unpredictable

The near-term future of New Zealand media companies has become more unpredictable in 2012, according to the latest New Zealand media ownership report published by AUT's Centre for Journalism Media and Democracy (JMAD).

The report has found that New Zealand media ownership has become even more concentrated in the hands of private equity firms, financial institutions and media moguls in 2012.

Profits and share prices of news media companies have plummeted, which has made them ideal takeover targets for financiers and private equity firms who are looking for revenue and restructuring deals. Interestingly enough, MediaWorks now has three major private equity owners instead of one, says report author Merja Myllylahti.

Publishers of New Zealand's two major metropolitan dailies, Fairfax Media and APN, have the same major shareholder—investment house Allan Gray—and this has led to speculation that the two media companies would merge their print operations, says the report.

There is currently huge shareholder pressure for companies to cut costs, rationalise their operations and sell assets. In a few years' time, the structure of the New Zealand media market might look completely different. "For example, APN has already started sales of New Zealand media assets, including its South Island newspapers, and the company is looking for a buyer for its main media assets including the New Zealand Herald. Fairfax has also started to sell down its core assets, including its stake in TradeMe."

JMAD, which has just released its second annual New Zealand Media Ownership Report, also found the transnational ownership of New Zealand media

companies has increased, an example being the takeover of ACP Magazines (publisher of Metro and North & South magazines) by German publishing giant Bauer Media Group.

The public media space has also shrunk even further. The closure of TVNZ 7 and Stratos reduces content diversity on free-to-air television. Advertiser-driven and paid subscriber television predominates, and advertisement-free television is unavailable for New Zealand viewers, said JMAD director Wayne Hope.

Key events and trends concerning New Zealand media ownership in 2012:

- Transnational media corporations tighten control over NZ media companies.
- Financial institutions and private equity firms increase their NZ media holdings.
- Fairfax and APN: asset sales, job cuts, paywalls and tabloid formats.
- Traditional business models in New Zealand print media become less viable.
- Public broadcasting shrinks further after the closure of TVNZ 7 and Stratos.
- Sky TV's spreading influence triggers Commerce Commission investigation.
- Journalism.org.nz: web-based public interest journalism emerges.



Rookie show a success

AUT University's Rookie fashion show in November delivered on its promise to be unlike any other.

The show, held in underground car park Shed 15, included a 100m runway, a "wall of sound", music from Electric Boutique and Voom as well as plenty of collections that had the crowd talking.

The collections ranged from commercial to the outrageous, and AUT's Head of the Fashion Department, Andreas Mikellis, could not have been more pleased.

"We wanted the show to highlight our new philosophy that promotes a far more experimental response to the idea of what

fashion design is, and I think we did that."

Twenty-nine collections were shown over the course of the evening, and this included four postgraduate student collections.

Petra Benton's womenswear collection, inspired by the juxtaposition between being strict and precise and being completely off-killer, was well regarded — as was Joshua Fache's beautiful, feminine work that opened the show.

Menswear from Paige Mackie and Jesse Lolo were inspired by their heritage and highlighted the diversity of the group that showed on the runway.

Frida Kahlo-inspired womenswear, sustainable materials and pieces that begin from thinking about science fiction also kept the audience's attention throughout

the night. Mikellis says the students have completely embraced the department's new vision and are setting themselves up well for the international stage.

"Many of the students now see their career paths from a broader, international perspective. We have growing numbers of graduates working for design companies overseas and others taking a very entrepreneurial approach by setting up design businesses in New Zealand but with a focus on an export market."

Students had worked on their final collections as part of the Bachelor of Design in Fashion course, with the announcement of those who would show at Rookie made on October 19, with the show taking place November 8.



Sistema Aotearoa making a difference in the lives of children- report

An AUT University report evaluating the Sistema Aotearoa music programme has discovered that the programme has not only enjoyed a successful initial year, it is also having a marked effect on the participating children, their families and the Otago community.

Sistema Aotearoa is the result of an Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and Ministry for Culture and Heritage partnership, based on El Sistema, one of the world's most successful music programmes. The programme uses orchestral music-making as a model for social development.

A trial has involved primary school children in Otago learning an orchestral instrument for one year, which immerses them in a collective teaching process.

AUT University's Institute of Public Policy (IPP) and Kinnect Group have now independently evaluated the first year of the programme.

David Wilson, lead researcher and director of IPP, says the evaluation highlighted the high performance of the programme, along with its strong leadership and management, good systems and structures and high levels of community support.

He says there is also promising early evidence that the programme may well be contributing to a range of social, developmental, musical and educational outcomes.

"These are promising findings that lend themselves to longer-term research investigating the programme's effects. For example the 'transference' of group musical education to other areas of development, such as academic achievement, is not proven. Yet there is enough evidence here and from international experience to suspect that there is something very special about the Sistema method."

Dr Joe Harrop, programme director of Sistema Aotearoa, says the evaluation is important to the ongoing success of the programme in several ways – the learning and teaching, the community liaison, the programme delivery and its subsequent outcomes.

"The most important success of the programme will be a critical mass of proud, assured, aspiring and contributing citizens," he says. "People who have shared the joy and benefits of fun, disciplined, collaborative work from an early age. It vividly shows the power of music-making as an instrument of social change."

Sistema Aotearoa is based at Otago Music Arts Centre (OMAC) and involves professionally trained musicians working with students in a

community setting after school and during the holidays. Trained professionals teach junior basic musicianship and the skills of playing an instrument in a way that is suitable to the age group involved.

Almost all children in the trial were aged between five and eight years old and nearly all were from Maori, Samoan, Tongan, Niuean or Cook Island families.



He Huatau Auaha: Te Reo Māori Creative Writing

Young creative waiata/haka composers and poetry and short story writers demonstrated their talents this year through an exciting new te reo Māori creative writing competition, He Huatau Auaha.

Over 30 creative te reo Māori writers ranging in age from 6 to 18 years entered from primary and secondary schools throughout New Zealand. This inaugural competition was run by Te Ipukarea: National Māori Language Institute and AUT University, and will become an annual event. Each category winner won an iPad2, with the second and third place-getters winning an iPod touch, or iPod classic or nano.

The competition ran from March to the end of Māori Language Week July 29th 2012 with the winners announced at the awards ceremony on September 11th at Ngā Wai o Horotiu Marae.



Manukau campus: Looking outside the box with Gifted and Talented

A conference for Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have been identified as gifted and talented went off with a bang last week. The first conference of its kind for Manukau students, the day focused on showcasing local talent and opportunities. The conference was an initiative brought about by a passionate teacher from James Cook High School, Kylie Jenkinson, and AUT University's Manukau campus team.

Hosted at AUT's Manukau campus, students were treated to a university experience with opening and closing speakers and a choice of breakout sessions, where speakers covered topics ranging from medicine, law and architecture to music, anthropology, and social media. Speakers included James Espie, creator of the website South Auckland is Choice, John Pulu, producer and film-maker from Tagata Pasifika, and Carmel Sepuloni, politician and former Labour MP.

"Students need to see excellence in our backyard," says Ms Jenkinson. "The conference is about showing our students that success is possible – that people in Manukau are achieving here, and staying here."

Opening speaker Ebon Grayman, who now lives in

Auckland but hails from New York, told students of his struggle growing up in the Bronx without a mother or father, living on welfare, while being the youngest of eight children. Despite the odds, he gained a university degree and became a successful gymnast and Cirque Du Soleil performer.

Says Grayman, "Life is not about being ordinary. You've got to be extraordinary. You've got to go for it. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't. Take

an 'I can't' and flip it. Change it for, 'I got this. I can do this. This thing is not going to defeat me because I'm too strong for it.'

"Being extraordinary is not easy. You'll have to work hard. But you have a duty to yourself, your parents, your teachers, your community. Don't ever forget it."

Says Ms Jenkinson, "If students are not provided with opportunities to demonstrate their giftedness, they can become frustrated, and it's often those kids who end up as gang leaders, in prison, dropping out of school, or committing suicide. We know that if you have a role model you're more likely to succeed, especially if they look like you and have a shared background with you. I hope that after this our students will be motivated to succeed; and to know that success doesn't necessarily

have to mean being a doctor or a lawyer; that there are lots of paths they can take."

Attendee Georgia Neame of Papakura High School found the conference gave her an insight into the real world of work and careers. "The speakers today have given me a good idea about what really happens in professions. It's changed my outlook on what I want to do. I haven't been to a conference before, but this has been really good."

Joshua Iosefo, the Mt Roskill Grammar School student who has become well known for his Brown Brother speech, lives in Otahuhu and wrapped up the day with a talk about the invisible borders that separate South Auckland from the rest of the city. "But barriers shouldn't be geographical," he exhorted students. "You need to change your mindset. Think anchor, hook, launch: anchor yourself to something you care about, hook on to its significance, and then launch."



ABOUT GIFTED AND TALENTED

The Ministry of Education requires all schools to run a programme for students who have been identified as gifted and talented. Many schools appoint a teacher within the school as their gifted co-ordinator, but often the teacher is a sole practitioner and constrained by time limits, support from other staff and access to additional resources. AUT Manukau campus hosts a gifted and talented teachers' cluster on campus twice a term for professional development and networking, and the conference was an initiative from this group. AUT hopes to run the conference on an annual basis.

The local Business School with the international reputation

The AUT Business School has been ranked 'Four Palmes' in the 2012 Eduniversal ranking – the second highest ranking in New Zealand.

Eduniversal is a University ranking designed to help students judge the best business schools in the world. They identify the top 1000

Business Schools in more than 150 countries using a classification based on "Palmes".

- Five Palmes means the School has a major international influence
- Four Palmes means a Top Business School who is internationally known
- Three Palmes means an excellent Business School with strong national reputation
- Two Palmes means a good Business School with regional influence

Each ranking is determined by internationalisation criterion (including accreditations, other classifications, participation in international academic associations and involvement in international networks of business deans), and the Dean's vote, where 1000 Business School Deans vote on Business Schools around the world.

AUT Business School awards best in the country

Thirteen of New Zealand's most significant business support organisations were recognised as the best in the country last month (November) at the AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards.

Over 700 business leaders gathered at a gala dinner at The Langham Hotel, hosted by AUT Business School, to hear which of this year's 47 finalists had secured the winning trophies across 12 different categories.

The most anticipated award of the night, presented to the Supreme Winner, went to Michael Barnett, CEO of Auckland Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to business and the community over the past 21 years.

On accepting the award, Michael said, "I'm stalling. This

is extraordinary. Thank you to the AUT Business School, my board and my team who I have worked with for a long time. AUT, the U stands for University. It's where we get our talented people from. For AUT to be successful we need to talk to them, to share our dreams and what talent we will need. That is our responsibility as business. Without success in this regard we will not have a successful Auckland, a successful New Zealand."

Michael also won the award for the Individual Category. In addition to the 13 winners,

Chris Quin CEO of Gen-i Australasia, the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce, Kordia Networks, and Onehunga High Business School were also highly commended for their dedication to business excellence.

Dean of AUT Business School Dr Geoff Perry says the quality of service offered by all of this year's finalists is highly encouraging for the future growth of business in New Zealand.

"Every individual and organisation has had to demonstrate their successful leadership and planning, customer and market focus, provision of business support, evaluation, improvement and business results.

"All entries go through a vigorous evaluation process that is overseen by the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation, including evaluators from our own

management department at AUT Business School. Excellence is then assessed using the international Baldrige criteria. With this in mind, the winners really have demonstrated they are top of their game.

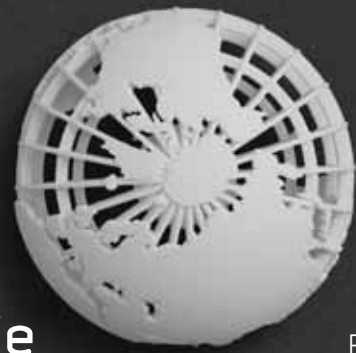
"I wish to congratulate them all for their outstanding success and support of New Zealand business."

The AUT Business School took ownership of the prestigious Excellence in Business Support Awards earlier this year, receiving the highest-ever number of entries and finalists in the awards' seven year history. Dr Perry says as a business school, it's important for AUT to celebrate the businesses and communities that contribute to New Zealand's economic development, so that together, they can continue to add value to the changing world of business.



Ice cream & patisserie

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We've had chocolate, pastries and ice cream galore in the School of Hospitality and Tourism in November.

THE 2012 WINNERS INCLUDE:

SUPREME WINNER

Michael Barnett, CEO Auckland Chamber of Commerce

FUJI XEROX INDIVIDUAL WINNER

Michael Barnett, CEO Auckland Chamber of Commerce

• Highly Commended: Chris Quin, CEO Gen-i Australasia

SPOTLESS - BUSINESS <5M T/O MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Small Business Company

• Highly Commended: Rotorua Chamber of Commerce

IDEALOG - BUSINESS <5M T/O SALES & MARKETING

Plato Design Agency

SPOTLESS - BUSINESS <5M T/O TECHNOLOGY

Optimal Usability

IMAGEPRINT - BUSINESS <5M T/O

ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

Debtworks (NZ) Ltd

WHK - BUSINESS \$5M-\$10M T/O

Advanced Security

IMAGEPRINT - LARGE BUSINESS SPECIFIC OFFERING

Deloitte Fast 50

WHK - LARGE BUSINESS \$10-\$50M T/O

BankLink

IDEALOG - LARGE BUSINESS \$50-\$200M T/O

2degrees

• Highly Commended: Kordia Networks

FUJI XEROX - LARGE BUSINESS \$200M PLUS T/O

JOINT WINNERS

GE Capital

ANZ Banking Group NZ

NZ BUSINESS EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION - NOT FOR PROFIT

Development West Coast

• Highly Commended: Onehunga High Business School

NZ BUSINESS EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION - GOVERNMENT

Business.govt.nz (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment)

The AUT Excellence in Business Support Awards gala dinner was also the first ever Be. Accessible accredited event in New Zealand. Be. Accessible provides businesses with programmes that enable them to become more accessible to all audiences. In order to become a bronze accredited event, AUT Business School met a number of requirements including the provision of NZ Sign Language interpreters, and the placement of brailled messaging on all tickets and programmes.

Sarah Trotman, Founder of the Excellence in Business Support Awards and Director of Business Relations at AUT Business School says, "It was important that this event 'Be. Accessible', simply because the Business School is totally committed to educating future business leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs who understand the social and economic value of accessibility."



It was lights, camera, pastry at Piko when 36 Certificate in Pâtisserie and first year Diploma in Pâtisserie students showed off their skills in their end-of-year showcase.

They spent three full days making 144 different items; equivalent to 45 days in the workplace, says senior lecturer Renny Aprea.

Delectable goodies inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Julie and Julia, The Muppets, Sweeney Todd and many more covered the tables for people to view.

Earlier in the month, the students had their annual ice cream showcase too.

Flavours like bacon, banana and maple syrup, cucumber and gin and tonic, balsamic vinegar, strawberry and cracked pepper and popcorn ice cream were on show for people to see and taste.

Lecturer Gilles Petit says students are given complete freedom to create whatever flavours they'd like.

"It's giving them a taste of the old-fashioned ice cream buffet."





Survey shows improvement to student services

Results from a recent survey have shown increased overall satisfaction with the ICT services currently provided to students at AUT. Survey data measured against findings from the comprehensive student survey held in 2008 show good improvements to many services. Surveys are conducted regularly, alternately canvassing students or staff for feedback, which is an essential part of the ICT Services planning process.

The student survey sought feedback on a range of services including Open Access Labs, printing facilities, ICT Student Support, UniSurf, UniCentral, AUT email and teaching and learning technologies.

In addition to determining overall satisfaction with each service, respondents provided information on their satisfaction with, and the importance of, a range of specific aspects of each service. This survey additionally sought feedback in relation to usage habits and reasons for non-usage.

The targeted satisfaction level was set at 65% of students. Any result below 65% was viewed as concerning and would have suggested that further action was required. The lowest rating for a service as a whole was 67% satisfaction for AUT email, and the highest was 84% satisfaction for UniCentral. The most noticeable improvement was observed in the printing facilities available in the Open Access Labs (+ 19 points in satisfaction).

In order to minimize survey fatigue, the pool of students invited to participate was a sample which did not include students previously polled in 2012 for other surveys. More than 2,700 students completed the questionnaire which was a response rate of 35% overall.

A growing trend sees more students using their own devices such as laptops, smart phones and tablets (iPads) on campus, which is reflected by increasing numbers of log-ins to Unisurf, AUT's wireless network. Since 2008, wireless log-ins have increased tenfold. To cater for this trend, additional wireless infrastructure will be provisioned and additional services, such as printing services via WiFi will be provided for students in 2013.

KEY FACTS:

- A sample of students were invited to participate (38% of student population)
- More than 2,700 students participated (response rate of 35% overall).
- Overall, Open Access Labs are used frequently (i.e., between one and five times a week) by 57% of students
- The main reason for not using the Open Access Labs is the absence of need: 44% of students prefer working from home, 39% do not need the Open Access Labs and 33% prefer using their personal laptop on campus
- Lab opening hours seem to be appropriate for the majority of students.

- Overall, UniSurf (AUT wireless) is used frequently (i.e. between one and five times a week) by 65% of students.
- Over two-thirds of students often use UniSurf on the City campus (69%) and a large majority of students connect with their personal laptop or netbook (81%).
- Overall, UniCentral is used frequently (i.e. between one and five times a week) by 58% of students
- Over a third of students indicated they never use their AUT email account (36%), while another 36% use it frequently (i.e., between one and five times a week).
- The majority of students use AUT email for university correspondence (76%) and one-third set up an automated redirection of their AUT emails to their preferred email address (33%)

RESULTS SNAPSHOT:

- Highest service rating: UniCentral - 84%
 - Biggest improvement: printing facilities in Open Access Labs - up 19 %
- Beena Doolabh, ICT Client Services Manager, was pleased with the good response rate and valuable information provided by students. The data gathered will feed into the ICT Services infrastructure and service improvement plans for 2013. The full report is available here: https://thewire.aut.ac.nz/_media/intranet/pdfs/strategy-and-performance/iru/2012-ICT-Services-Student-Survey-Report-eVersion.pdf

